



National 4-H Headquarters

In the Cooperative State Research, Education and
Extension Service (CSREES)

At the United States Department of Agriculture

National 4-H Headquarters, CSREES, USDA located in Washington, D.C., works in partnership with the Cooperative Extension Service nationwide, Land Grant Universities, private partners, and other programs that constitute 4-H to promote the power of youth.

4-H Youth Development is an American idea – the world's largest, dynamic, informal educational program for young people based on democratic principles.

Learning By Doing

This idea is alive and well in all 50 states, Guam, Puerto Rico and army installations worldwide where 4-H Youth Development takes Land-Grant University knowledge and expertise to youth in rural, suburban and urban communities. Youth are encouraged to participate in a variety of activities that emphasize the “learning by doing” philosophy of 4-H Youth Development. Hands-on projects range from citizenship to expressive arts, consumer science, environmental education, leadership, technology as well as animal and plant sciences.

7 Million Youth

Over 7 million youth, ages 5-19, participate in 4-H Youth Development experiences. 4-H Youth Development is the only youth program, which ties both public and private resources to the single purpose of supporting the positive and successful development of youth. According to a 2 year study in New York State, young people who participate in 4-H clubs do better in school, are more motivated to help others, and are developing skills in leadership, public speaking, self esteem, communication and planning, and are making lasting friendships. 4-H reaches these youth through a network of 3,500 professional educators and 640,000 volunteer leaders

Direct Access to 105 State Land-Grant Universities

As the only youth program with direct access to technological advances in agriculture, life sciences, human development, social sciences and related areas which result from land-grant university research, 4-H Youth Development is helping young people become mature, competent adults capable of participation and leadership in their communities and entry into the workforce.

100 Years of Reaching Youth

4-H Youth Development has just celebrated its centennial – 100 years of a great idea – this cooperative venture organized around the notion of building community spirit and creating opportunities for youth to develop skills and confidence. Today 45% of youth reached by 4-H are from rural areas and towns up to 10,000; 55% are from larger cities, their suburbs, and from large inner cities. 30% of 4-H youth are from racial and ethnic minorities.

For more information, contact National 4-H Headquarters: <http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov>

National 4-H Headquarters, USDA - Building Leaders of Tomorrow

Priorities of National 4-H Headquarters

- *Development of Youth Development Professionals*
- *Access & Diversity*
- *Enhanced Resource Development*
- *Stimulation of the Youth Development Research Agenda*
- *Strategic Program Priorities:*
 - Science, Engineering & Technology Informal Education*
 - Youth Health & Obesity*
 - Civic Engagement & Youth*



Youth Development Competitive Grant Programs

- Rural Youth Opportunity Grant Program (\$3 million)
- Children, Youth and Families at Risk Grants (\$7-8 million)
- Military 4-H Club Grants

CYFERnet: Children, Youth and Families Education and Research Network – an online database that received a 2003 USDA Secretary's Honor Award as a "cost-effective, multi-university, human and technology network; peer reviewing and posting over 3,000 high quality resources; and serving 66,000 at-risk youth and families in over 200 community programs." www.cyfernet.org

National Youth Leadership Opportunities

- 4-H Youth Technology Leadership Teams
- National 4-H Youth Directions Council
- National 4-H Conference

4-H-Military Partnership <http://www.usda-army-ydp.org>

- 4-H Air Force High Adventure Camps
- USDA/Army Youth Development Project
- Military 4-H Club Program
- Operation Military Kids

4-H Afterschool – With the support from JC Penney Afterschool Fund, 4-H has refocused program delivery efforts during the 3:00-5:00 p.m. time slot. www.4-HAfterschool.org

National 4-H Juried Curriculum Collection – over 200 curriculum written by faculty at the land grant universities.

Professional and Volunteer Development



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